

Mrs. Tolin

7th Grade Language Arts

Class Syllabus

Mrs. Tolin's email address: Anna.Tolin@nordoniaschools.org

Mrs. Tolin's class website: MrsTolin.wikispaces.com

Twitter: @MrsTolin

GENERAL COURSE OF STUDY:

Literature:

- Summer Reading: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" from *The Jungle Books*, Volume Two by Rudyard Kipling
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- "The Adventures of the Speckled Band" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- *A Christmas Carol: Scrooge & Marley*, a play adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel
- "If" by Richard Kipling
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- Historical Poetry (various)
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- "Zoo" by Edward Hoch
- Literature Circles (various novels TBA)

Vocabulary: Word Wisdom (Level G)

In a typical 5-day school week, we will adhere to the following outlined schedule for our Word Wisdom study:

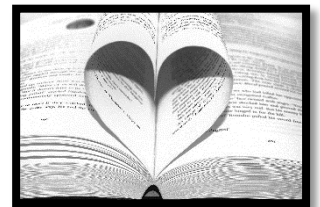
- Mondays- pretests; assess current knowledge. Introduce new words, prefixes, roots and/or suffixes. Study and apply context clue strategy; HW assigned for the week
- Wednesdays -first half of Unit part HW is due
- Thursdays- second half of Unit part HW is due; correct all answers; review
- Fridays- 10-word posttest; demonstrate mastery and new knowledge
- Each WW unit has 4 "Parts". Parts 1-3 each contain 10 new words. Part 4 of every unit is a Review Unit; Unit 4's Posttest is a cumulative 30-words test.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE COURSE OF STUDY:

The 2013-2014 school year will be the first implementation of Nordon Middle School's 7th and 8th grade Common Core State Standards-based Curriculum map. With this in mind, please be aware that some changes may be made to the general course of study throughout the year. All changes will be announced.

- Please note: the new curriculum map differs greatly from last year's 2012-2013 curriculum. Students and parents (*and perhaps teachers too!* 😊) will need to prepare for a bit of an adjustment to the new material and its demands. Students should "mentally prepare" themselves for the reality that they will be responsible for completing independent reading in and outside of class to better facilitate, support and enhance their mastery of these standards. For more information about Common Core, please visit:

<http://www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions>



REQUIRED *DAILY* MATERIALS:

- ☐ College-ruled notebook paper
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Small pencil sharpener with shaving collector
- ☐ Highlighter
- ☐ Pens: blue or black pen **USED FOR ALL WORK THAT WILL BE TURNED IN**
- ☐ Editing Utensil: a pen, colored pencil or thin marker (ie: red, green or purple--any color other than blue or black)
- ☐ 1 binder or folder with brads and pockets (used to store 3-hole punched paper)
- ☐ 1 USB flash drive; 1 GB

LATE/ MISSING WORK:

- **When it's due:** The opportunity to earn full credit on any homework assignment is only possible for work submitted at the time it is collected by the teacher (submitting it at the end of the day is not considered "on time")
- **1 Day Late:** Homework assignments submitted within 1 day after its due date will earn ½ credit (ie: Later on the same day it was due, or on the next day).
- **More than 1 day late:** NO homework assignment will be accepted for credit 2 or more days after its due date (ie. If the 10-point assignment was due on Monday, it's worth 5 points on Tuesday, but will not be accepted on Wednesday.)
- **Exception:** Extended writing assignments, major class assignments; other circumstances that will be otherwise-announced in class, or homework assigned while the student was absent (see "Absences" for more information)

ABSENCES:

Please refer to page 7 of Student Handbook

- When a student is absent, **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to find out what he/she missed. You may do so by checking ProgressBook, visiting the Mrs. Tolin's wiki page, emailing Mrs. Tolin, asking another peer and/or checking the HW board when he/she returns to school. For additional help with missed instruction and/or additional copies of missed work, it is the student's responsibility to contact Mrs. Tolin and make necessary arrangements.
- **Students will receive the number of days he/she was absent +1 day to submit absent/make-up work.** For example, if a student was absent on Monday and Tuesday (2 days), he/she is expected to turn in all missing work by the following Monday (2 days +1).
- **All missing tests & quizzes must be made up** within a reasonable time frame (less than one week). Students will not be eligible to make up any Word Wisdom quizzes after the Unit 4 (30 word) test has been issued. Students may make-up quizzes or tests during their Intervention period, lunch period and before or after school. Students will typically NOT be given class time to make up quizzes from an absence, as that only causes them to miss more class instruction.
- If a student has to be absent from school for more than one day, it is strongly encouraged for the parent/guardian to **request an Assignment Sheet** from his/her teachers. This can be done by contacting the front office at (330) 467-0584.
- Please keep in mind that absences can quickly become a serious disadvantage to one's success in a class, and should be avoided as much as possible. On the other hand, if you're sick—keep your germs at home please, and get well soon ☺



GRADING:

Scale:

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

Below 60 - Not passing

Weight—*please refer to page 11 in Student handbook for more info.*

Homework: practice and extension of lessons = 10% of grade

Formal assessments: tests, quizzes, essays, projects = 90% of grade

HALL PASSES:

- Hall passes will be issued infrequently on a strictly as-needed basis to students who have their agenda books with them. Do not expect to be granted permission to go to your locker or to use the restroom while the teacher is instructing or during assessments. Be sure to use the restroom or stop at your locker before class. If you're going to be tardy doing so, you must report to class first (before class begins) and ask me first. Otherwise, if you go to the restroom before class without my permission and arrive late, you will be marked tardy.



TARDY POLICY & CLASS DISMISSAL:

- **Tardy to School:** Students who arrive to their Intervention classroom after 8:00 a.m. will be sent to the office to receive a tardy slip. Tardiness is recorded on attendance reports, reported on students' report cards & becomes a part of a student's permanent record.
- **Tardy to class:** Class will begin each period at its designated posted time. Mrs. Tolin's computer clock will sound an alarm at the beginning and end of each period. Students are **expected to be in their seats when the alarm is done going off**. Anyone who enters the class after that (or is continuously late in sitting down before the alarm) will need to sign the tardy sheet that is located on the table near the door.

1st tardy = "Warning"

2nd tardy = lunch detention in O.R.

3rd tardy in one marking period will result in a Wednesday or Saturday detention.

GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Come prepared with all class supplies & materials.
3. Raise your hand to be addressed prior to speaking out loud.
4. Respect the speaker—whether it's the teacher, a visitor or another peer.
5. Always do your BEST—anything less is a waste of your effort.
6. Participate; get involved; ask questions! ☺
7. Remain in your seat during instruction & until you are dismissed.
8. Leave the attitude & any negativity at the door.
9. R-E-S-P-E-C-T yourself, others and your surroundings.
10. Do not interfere with the teacher's ability to teach and any student's ability to learn.



CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES:

- ❖ Warning--- your name will be written on teacher clipboard (MORE INFO T.B.D. IN CLASS ABOUT THE CLIPBOARD)
- ❖ 5-minute "cool down" in the hallway and reflection form
- ❖ Opportunity Room (O.R.)
- ❖ Lunch detention
- ❖ Phone call or letter home
- ❖ Conference with Team Teachers
- ❖ Wednesday or Saturday detention
- ❖ Parent-Teacher conference
- ❖ Office referral & subsequent action as necessary

INCENTIVES FOR INDIVIDUAL & CLASS COOPERATION OR PERFORMANCE:

- ★ Phone call or letter home
- ★ "Knight Way Right Way" nomination
- ★ Time in class to complete homework
- ★ Music during seat or computer work
- ★ Special topics day
- ★ Homework pass
- ★ Give demonstration to class
- ★ Pick your own groups/seats
- ★ Submit your suggestion... ☺

No student shall be permitted to keep a teacher from teaching or a student from learning.

A PORTION TO DETACH & KEEP AT HOME:

7th Grade Language Arts- Mrs. Tolin

Student's name: _____

Class Period: _____

Teacher Contact Information:

Email: Anna.Tolin@nordoniaschools.org

Teacher class website: MrsTolin.wikispaces.com *lesson plans, HW assignments, additional study tools and extra copies of class handouts may be downloadable on this website. Please check it out!! ☺

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hello! I look forward to getting to know your child this school year and working with you as well. Thank you for taking the time to carefully study our class syllabus. Your son/daughter should keep it in his/her Language Arts binder for easy reference. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to detach this page and keep it at home for your own records.

It is likely that you will receive an email, home postcard and/or a call home throughout the school year. Please don't let this concern you. It is my intent to keep you informed about your son/daughter's behavior and progress in class, and also to share positive news with you! In the lower portion of this form, please be sure to provide your most current (and preferred) method to be contacted.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the school year, and I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible (typically within a day).

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tolin



CUT HERE

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION -



A PORTION TO DETACH & RETURN TO SCHOOL WITH STUDENT:

7th Grade Language Arts- Mrs. Tolin

Student's name: _____

Class Period: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

(print)

(signature)

Phone number: () _____

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

Email address: _____

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

(print)

(signature)

Phone number: () _____

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COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

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Phone number: _____ () _____

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

Email address: _____

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_____ (print) _____ (signature)

Phone number: _____ () _____

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

Email address: _____

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FOR MRS. TOLIN: